

FWP, R1 CAC Meeting
01/09/2013

Present: Kari Gabriel, Greg Foley, Rick Komenda, Wally Wilkinson, Roger Diegle, Mike Corkish, Jim Regnier, Linda Regnier, Mike Shepard, Bernie Cassidy, Randy Richard, Paul Fielder, Ron Hvizdak, Lee Brundin, Jon Dahlberg, Don Bothwell, Tony Anderson,

FWP: John Fraley, Jim Williams, Lee Anderson, Dave Landstrom, Ben Chappelow, Chris Hammond, and Martha Abbrescia

Kari Gabriel/Presentation: Owls of Montana / with Phyllis the Saw-Whet Owl

Chris Hammond: Non-game Biologist / Overview of Non-game species

Trap Free Zones: Certified about 700 wolf trappers recently, and with that comes concerns from the non-trapping public that their dogs will be caught in traps intended for wolves.

FWP started fielding calls as soon as the season started. FWP started to consider the concept of trap free zones with the help of the CAC. The primary conflict for traps and dogs is the groomed cross country ski trails. Not supposed to let your dogs run there, but its human nature.

To be proactive, the trap free zone would go into effect next season in high use areas, only in the winter.

The objective of the trap free zones is for all recreationists to get along. Some folks do not want to be in any area where there are any traps.

Lee Anderson – Trap free zones should be looked at further. Mass education needs to be a huge part of this (concept).

Ron Hvizdak. – Thinks limiting the equipment is a great idea, but not necessarily creating trap free zones.

Randy Richard – In favor of equipment limits. Worried about it ending up with way too many trap free zones.

Bernie – Some trappers are self posting their trapping areas.

Mike Shepard – Dogs should be on leashes! Another problem is that you don't want to give too much up or you end up with nothing at all.

Linda Regnier: Thinks the trapper's fear of the "anti's" is irrational. Also, thinks that the trap free zones would be a good will gesture.

Mike Komenda: Perception is reality. I can understand why FWP would do it.

Roger Diegle: Designated groomed ski trails should be used for the criteria.

Wally Wilkinson: An equipment restriction would be the best.

Greg Foley: Newcomers to the sport will be the ones that get the trapping in trouble.

Rick Komenda: Equipment restriction is the right way to go.

Round Table: 8:35 pm

Randy Richard: People seem to be seeing more white tails, but less mule deer. Not finding mountain lions this year. Some guys have seen some wolves, but not too many.

Bernie Cassidy: Enjoyable program tonight. Can we soup up the turkey hunting?

Mike Shepard: Can we get December bow hunting season back? – Jim Williams would like to see whitetails rebound more.

Linda Regnier: Wolverines – only 150 – 175 in MT? Jim Williams – there's actually about 350. Gives handout.

Wally Wilkinson: Hands out youth trap shooting league flyers to all.

Rick Komenda: Calling to hunt on private land is starting to annoy the private land owners.

Jon Dahlberg: Went to the trappers ed for the education. I probably won't start trapping. Impressive part was the 3 hours spent on trappers ethics. It was a great program.

Don Bothwell: Thank you John for the Wolf trapper program!

Tony Anderson: Cross country skiers are more afraid of the dog fights from loose dogs. The trap free zone may indicate that people have the right to allow their dog to run loose.

Next meeting set for 2/20/13.